

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

**001683**

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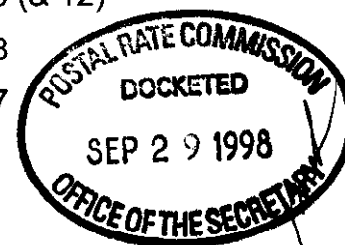
MAILING ONLINE SERVICE

Docket No. MC98-1

COMMENTS OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
ON PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE FOR EXPERIMENTAL PHASE

During hearings on August 16, the Presiding Officer solicited comments from the participants regarding a procedural schedule for the phase of this case relating to the experimental service.<sup>1</sup> Tr. 2/102. The Postal Service proposes a schedule which would allow for a recommended decision to be issued within five months of the date the case was filed, as contemplated by the experimental rules. It could also allow the Postal Service to implement the experiment concurrently with the rate change scheduled for January 10 (assuming, of course, a favorable recommended decision and approval by the Governors).

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| End of discovery on Postal Service testimony   | October 13         |
| Further hearings on Postal Service testimony   | October 20, 21     |
| Rebuttal testimony of other participants filed &<br>discovery on rebuttal testimony begins | October 26         |
| Hearings on rebuttal testimony   | November 10 (& 12) |
| Briefs   | November 18        |
| Reply Briefs   | November 27        |



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<sup>1</sup> The Presiding Officer had asked for such comments on or before the date set for reply briefs. The Postal Service filed a motion on September 23 to have the time for comments extended until today.

The Postal Service believes this schedule provides a reasonable balance between the expedition contemplated by the experimental rules and the requirements of due process. The Postal Service recognizes that, assuming a favorable recommendation on the market test, the resolution of certain issues may require adjustments to the schedule suggested herein.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Scott L. Reiter

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.



Scott L. Reiter

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September 29, 1998